

## CLAIMS

1. A method for producing competent gene products in human cells, said method comprising the following steps :

Providing a DNA construct in which a gene encoding a protein of interest is operably linked to a  
5 modified heat-inducible promoter,

Introducing said DNA construct into a human cell line, either by transformation or by transfection to form transformed or transfected host cell lines,

Subjecting said transformed or transfected cell lines to a transient increase in temperature and permitting the translation to protein to occur after the temperature has been returned to normal growth  
10 temperatures of the said host cells, whereby the production of said protein of interest occurs

2. The method of claim one in which the modified heat inducible promoter is the Hi-Hot promoter.

3. The method of claim one where the human cell line is a competent human hepatocyte cell line.

4. The method of claim 3 where the gene expressed encodes a therapeutic protein.

5. The method of claim 3 where the gene expressed includes therapeutic genes such as interferons,  
15 interleukins, blood clotting factors, insulins, growth hormone, urokinase, EPO, TPA, FSH, somatostatin, antibodies, DNAase, myoglobin, pro- and anti-angiogenesis factors and proteins of veterinary interest.

6. The method of claim 3 where the gene expressed is a natural liver protein.